



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, October 20, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

Domestic Programs

Mexican fruit fly - The California Department of Agriculture (CDFA), the USDA, and the San Diego Agriculture Commission has completed the eradication of the Mexican fruit fly (MFF) and lifted the local quarantine in the Valley Center area of San Diego County.

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Noxious Weeds - The Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) infestation in Pender County North Carolina has been treated with herbicide this year. Another treatment is planned for the middle of October. The area was spared from flooding by Hurricane Isabel which devastated areas further north.

The APHIS National Weed Team added *Inula (Inula britannica)* to the work plan for proposals relative to Federal Noxious Weed status. Negative survey has been reported by eight states in the Eastern Region. *Inula* has been found and treated in three nurseries in Michigan which have received hosta plants from The Netherlands.

Benghal dayflower, also called tropical spiderwort, (*Commelina benghalensis*) was reported near Auburn University in Lee County in Alabama. There has been a previous report from Henry County which is north of Dothan.

The duck lettuce (*Ottelia alismoides*) found in Florida has been treated. Investigation continues relative to the origin of the infestation. Follow-up is continuing on a previous report of a find in Missouri.

Al Tasker gave a presentation at the Mountain Lakes Vegetation Management Association annual conference in Delaware regarding the National Noxious Weed program. This association consists mainly of vegetation managers from utility and pipeline companies.

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Sudden oak death - *Hamamelis virginiana* (witch hazel) is a small understory tree native to the Eastern United States. This winter flowerer is planted as an ornamental or specimen

tree and can be found in established plantings in some public gardens in the United Kingdom. Last week the United Kingdom's DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) reported that they had confirmed *P. ramorum* on witch hazel detected in a public garden in Wales. The tree was reported being located close to an infected Rhododendron. This will bring the list of hosts and associated plants to 41 and adds a new plant family, Hamamelidaceae, to be linked

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Emergency Program

Emerald Ash Borer - On Sept 30 and October 1 in Port Huron, MI, U.S. and Canadian scientists and program managers met to discuss the results of field and laboratory studies conducted this summer. Program officials expect that a chemical treatment will be available for use on the project by next spring. Additional information on biology and behavior will be useful in improving survey, control, and regulatory methods and activities. On October 2, a panel of scientists with experience in area wide pest management of forest pests met to review the current strategy in light of recent research results and detections of spot infestations in Ohio, Michigan and Maryland. Their report is expected on October 10.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) larvae were found near Toledo, Ohio, the third site of infestation in this state. The beetles were found last week in small ash trees used for landscaping at a strip mall in Perrysburg near Interstate 75, about 10 miles east of where state workers found the first infestation in February. The latest infested trees were traced to a nursery in Michigan. Officials are investigating whether the trees were brought into Ohio before Michigan placed a ban on moving ash trees in the southeastern part of the state.

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Asian longhorned beetle - In Illinois, pre-leaf drop soil injection treatment was completed on 312 host trees. This is the program's second year for testing fall soil injection treatments. If proven to be efficacious, this will enable the program to be more flexible in the delivery of the chemical treatments, spanning it across the spring and fall months instead of concentrating all treatments within the 4 month window in the spring.



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The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) NY Management Board will be meeting October 28, 2003, to review program accomplishments, plan 2004 activities, and resolve pending issues.

Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management climbers arrived this week to assist with surveys. There are 20 climbers in IL, 3 in NJ, and 12 in NY.

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Boll Weevil Eradication The National Cotton Council's Boll Weevil Action Committee held its annual meeting in Little Rock, AR, on September 29-30, 2003. The group of grower leaders suggested cost-share allocations for each active eradication zone for FY2004. The committee's newly appointed Post-Eradication Transition Subcommittee also held its first meeting, charged with developing an effective strategy and organizational structure for moving the program from active eradication to long-term post-eradication maintenance.

In related news, growers in Louisiana passed a new, statewide post-eradication referendum on September 30, 2004. By a vote of more than 90 percent, growers demonstrated their support for the program and willingness to pay a modest annual assessment to guard against reinfestation. This referendum is for an indefinite period, and will remain in effect unless recalled by a majority of the growers. This is a very secure arrangement, and other states would be wise to employ a similar approach, rather than facing the risk associated with holding new referenda every five years.

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